

The Homeless Youth & Young Adult Initiative



**KING COUNTY'S APPROACH TO
ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

**NAEH CONFERENCE ON ENDING FAMILY &
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS | 2/21/2013**



Objectives



- Obtain one roadmap for Moving Forward
 - Partnership between funders, small & large providers, young people
 - Planning to concrete action
 - Anticipating challenges
- Strategies to focus on the mission
 - The young people.
 - The young people.
 - The young people.

Background



- Compassionate, skilled providers
- National leaders
- Passionate focus on the youth at the expense of exploring family reunification & community connections
- Prior plans with little movement
- Lack of system-wide coordination
 - *How many youth & young adults (YYA's) are homeless?*
 - *What works best to address homelessness?*
 - *Are we making progress?*



Increased need

National attention

10 Year Plan to End
Homelessness

Private funder focus

Public funder
willingness

Unprecedented trust

Urgency

Why now?



Planning to Concrete Action



- Community Awareness
- “Private” YYA Funders Group
- Homeless YYA Task Force
- Public & Private Funders, Youth, Providers
 - Collective Impact
- Priority Action Steps to Prevent & End YYA Homelessness

2013 Priority Action Steps



- **Prevention & early intervention;**
- Systematically assess needs of homeless young people & match them with housing through **coordinated engagement/entry;**
- **Coordinated data collection** & reporting so we can measure our progress & learn how to make changes; &
- **Comprehensive Planning**, using new data to inform our community's approach moving forward.

Who has been at the table up to this point?



- Auburn Youth Resources
- Atlantic Street Center
- Ballmer Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Building Changes
- Champion Foundation
- Casey Family Programs
- Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
- Center for Children & Youth Justice
- City of Seattle Human Services Department
- Cocoon House
- Columbia Legal Services
- Committee to End Homelessness in King County
- 4C Coalition
- Friends of Youth
- Highline Public School District
- Issaquah Public School District
- King County Council
- King County Department of Community & Human Services
- King County Executive
- King County Housing Authority
- LGBTQ Allyship

- Medina Foundation
- Mockingbird Society
- New Horizons Ministries
- Pride Foundation
- Raikes Foundation
- Raynier Institute & Foundation
- ROOTS Young Adult Shelter
- Seattle Foundation
- Seattle /King County Coalition on Homelessness
- Seattle Housing Authority
- Seattle Public Schools
- Street Youth Ministries
- Teen Feed
- The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian & Trans Survivors of Abuse
- Thomas V. Giddens Jr. Foundation
- United Way of King County
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation
- Washington State Department of Social & Human Services
- YMCA of Greater Seattle
- YWCA of Seattle, King, Snohomish Counties
- YouthCare

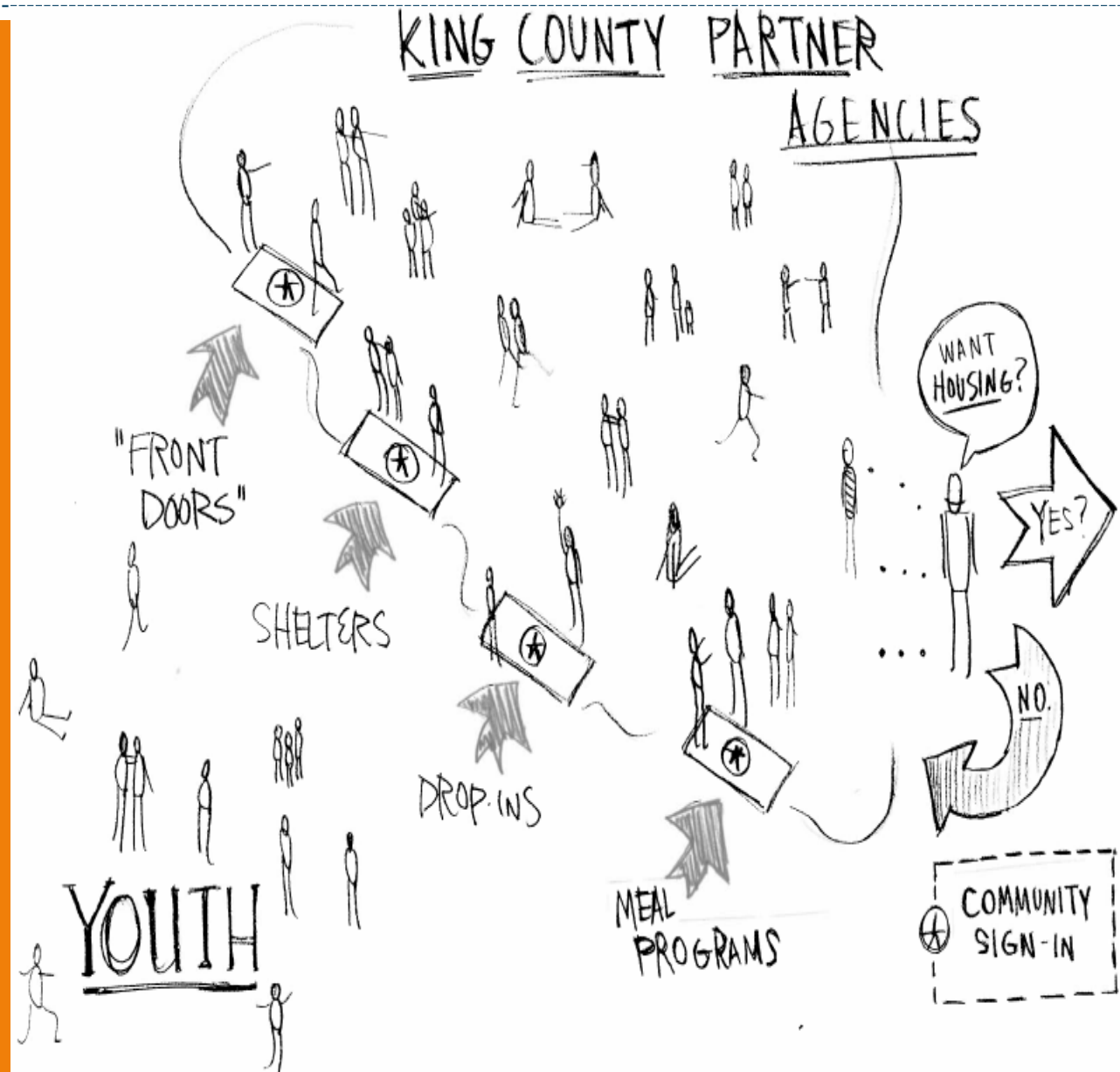
Implementation to Date



- Prevention & early intervention for runaways:
National Safe Place & Cocoon House's Project SAFE
- Coordinated Engagement: Summer 2013
- Coordinated data collection: "Community Sign-in"
- Youth Voice: Mockingbird Society
- Comprehensive Planning
- Enduring community leadership

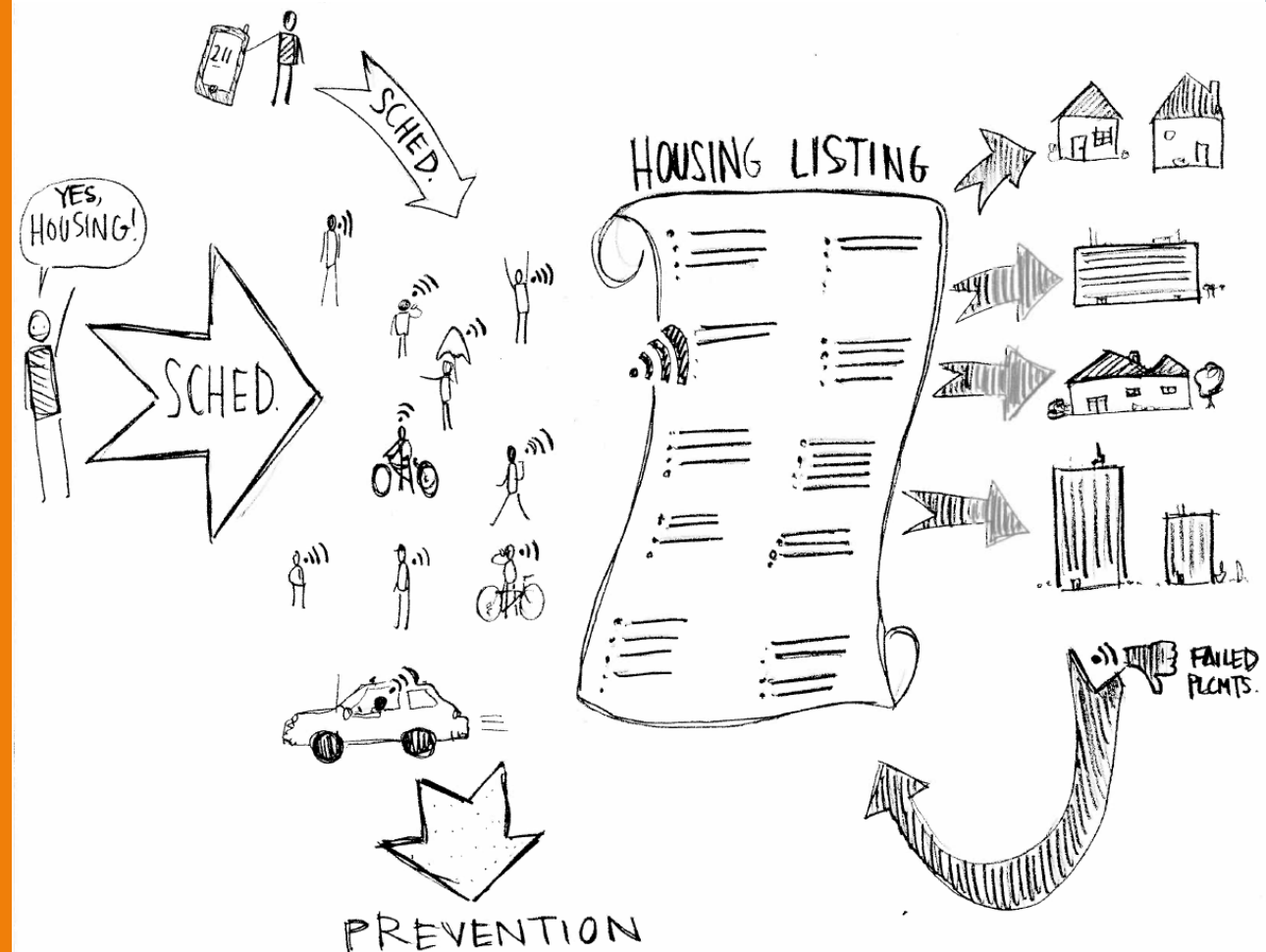
Coordinated Engagement: Data Collection

Young people complete
a “community sign in”
at any front door.



Coordinated Engagement: Housing Inventory

Homeless young people
receive one coordinated
housing assessment.



Key Challenges



- Service & funding center of gravity
- Rural/Suburban/Urban
- Regional disproportionate need
- Potential to obscure strength of community-based agencies
- Culture shift around data
- Previous system changes
- Robust community involvement

Lessons Learned



- Leverage existing thinking
- Convene all stakeholders
- Embark on a finite process with:
 - Clear timeline,
 - Well-defined expectations & decision making ability, &
 - End goal
- Focus on young people not agencies/programs
- Funders listen to agencies re: what works
- Funders & agencies listen to data re: what doesn't
- Private funders inspire public funders
- Keep the young people at the center

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